

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
EASTERN DIVISION**

**IN RE: AME CHURCH EMPLOYEE
RETIREMENT FUND LITIGATION**

MDL Docket No. 1:22-md-03035-STA-jay
ALL CASES

Honorable S. Thomas Anderson

**SYMETRA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY AND AMEC'S JOINT
STATUS UPDATE ON THE AAA ARBITRATION**

Pursuant to this Court's Order of December 11, 2023 (ECF No. 316), Symetra Life Insurance Company ("Symetra") and the African Methodist Episcopal Church ("AMEC") provide the following joint status report on the ongoing AAA arbitration between them.

Symetra and AMEC held an initial hearing with the arbitrator on November 29, 2023, after which the arbitrator set a schedule for written discovery and initial briefing on the issue of the scope of the arbitration. In accordance with that schedule, Symetra and AMEC served written discovery requests on each other on February 28, 2024, and responded to those requests on April 5, 2024. Between April and September 2024, the parties briefed multiple issues regarding the scope of the arbitration.

After considering the parties' briefs, the arbitrator ordered an evidentiary hearing on the scope of the arbitration. That hearing was held on October 21–23, 2024. A post-hearing oral argument was held on December 11, 2024. The arbitrator indicated his decision on the scope of the arbitration will be issued shortly.

Dated: December 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Benjamin Stoll

Markham R. Leventhal

mleventhal@carltonfields.com

Benjamin M. Stoll

bstoll@carltonfields.com

Nathaniel G. Foell

nfoell@carltonfields.com

CARLTON FIELDS, P.A.

1025 Thomas Jefferson St. NW #400W

Washington, DC 20007

Telephone: (202) 965-8189

Attorneys for Defendant

Symetra Life Insurance Company

/s/ Bruce A. McMullen

Bruce A. McMullen

bmcullen@bakerdonelson.com

Mary Wu Tullis

mtullis@bakerdonelson.com

Jennie V. Silk

jsilk@bakerdonelson.com

BAKER, DONELSON, BEARMAN

CALDWELL & BERKOWITZ, P.C.

165 Madison Avenue, Suite 2000

Memphis, TN 38103

Telephone: (901) 526-2000

Attorneys for AMEC and AMEC Ministerial

Retirement Annuity Plan

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 12th day of October 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was sent to all counsel of record via the CM/ECF system.

/s/ Benjamin Stoll